

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-07 OPIC-03

TRSE-00 OMB-01 FTC-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/079 W

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R 031037Z AY 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9930

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR, OECD, IS, FI

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 096935

1. GOF HAS NO SPECIFIC POLICY ON BOYCOTT. COMPANIES ARE FREE TO COMPLY OR RESIST AT THEIR DISCRETION. MFA ADVISED EMBOFF THAT NO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM ANY COMPANY DESPITE FACT THAT SEVERAL FINNISH COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ON BOYCOTT LIST.

2. ISRAELI EMBASSY, COMMERCIAL BANKING SOURCES AND STATISTICAL DATA INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MEASURABLE IMPACT ON FINNISH-ISRAELI TRADE DURING BOYCOTT TIME.

3. QUESTION ON DIVERSION OF TRADE THROUGH LOCAL FIRMS OR SUBSIDIARIES DIFFICULT TO ANSWER ACCURATELY. BANK OF FINLAND INDICATES IT UNLIKELY TO OCCUR, PARTICULARLY WITH TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE FLOW AND INDICATED BANK WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH OCCURRENCES. COMMERCIAL BANKING SOURCE CONCURRED WITH LATTER JUDGMENT. LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES OF US FIRMS ARE STRICTLY MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS, FOR FINLAND AND OCCASIONALLY USSR SALES. TRANSACTION THROUGH
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THESE COMPANIES COULD BE ONLY ACCOUNTING TRANSACTION,
AND THUS HARD TO CHECK THROUGH CUSTOMS OR FOREIGN
CURRENCY DATA.

4. ARAB WORLD IS PRIMARY TARGET OF FINNISH EXPORT
PROMOTION (INCLUDING PROJECT EXPORTS), SO ANTI-BOYCOTT
ACTION EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. FINLAND IS NOT, HOWEVER,
DEPENDENT UPON ARABS FOR OIL. MFA SOURCE INDICATED
SUBJECT OF BOYCOTT HAD NOT BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION
RECENTLY AND WAS UNLIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED.
HOUSTON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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